VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
3
nov
$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM THE MIND OF
CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND
BLISS! YOU BROUGHT THIS THING TO LIFE--
--YOU'VE GOT TO STOP IT!
I'M TRYING--BUT I CAN'T!
DIRECT EDITION
EVIL THOUGHTS
OB1

ONCE, LONG AGO, SUPER HEROES WERE REAL. NOW, THE POWER IS REBORN INTO FOUR PRODUCTS OF THE GRIT AND GLITZ OF HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD: A JOCK, A RICH GIRL, A DRUG ADDICT, AND A CHILD OF THE STREETS. THEY WILL BECOME THE HEROES OF A NEW GENERATION — IF THEY CAN SURVIVE.

IN THE LAST TWELVE HOURS, LISA MOFFITT'S LIFE HAS BECOME A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
WHEN HER BOYFRIEND DROPPED HER LIKE A RANCID HUNK OF HAMBURGER, DESPAIR LED HER TO A NEWFOUND FRIEND ESCHBACHER, WHO GAVE HER SUPER ABILITIES BEYOND ALL IMAGINING...
...BEFORE HE DIED A GRUESOME DEATH AT THE HANDS OF AN ALIEN FROM ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM!
I TRUSTED YOU WITH MY POWERS-- AND YOU STOLE THEM FOR YOURSELF! YOU LET ME DIE!
NO, ESCHBACHER! WE KEPT THE PAXIS ABILITIES--TO FIGHT FOR EARTH! THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED!
"A PIXIS, A PAXIS"-- EVERYONE KNOWS THAT NURSERY RHYME, GIRL! THE PAXIS WARRIORS NEVER EXISTED...THAT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD!
NO! YOU MAY BE A GHOST--BUT THE PAXIS WERE REAL! I BELIEVE!
CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS
HYPERKIND
THE NEXT PAXIS
CREATED BY CLIVE BARKER
PETRECCA & RIGGS INKS
PARIS CULLINS PENCILS
TOM SMITH COLORS
FRED BLANKE STORY
STEVE DUTRO LETTERS
MARC MCLAURIN - EDITS
TOM DEFALCO - CHIEF
MALCOLM SMITH - CONSULTING EDITS
CARL POTTS - EXECUTIVE EDITS
NEXT WEEK, SCHOOL STARTS. SENIOR YEAR, BUT LISA -- WHO SOMETIMES CALLS HERSELF ARMATA -- HAS GOT OTHER THINGS ON HER MIND...

HYPERKIND™ Vol. 1, No. 3, November, 1993. Published monthly by MARVEL COMICS. Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **Application to mail at second class rates is pending in New York, NY and at additional mailing offices.** Published monthly. All HYPERKIND material copyright © 1993 Clive Barker. All rights reserved. Price $1.75 per copy in the U.S. and $2.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $21.00 U.S.; $33.00 foreign; and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. HYPERKIND, THE NEXT PAXIS (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of CLIVE BARKER. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO HYPERKIND, THE NEXT PAXIS, c/o MARVEL COMICS, SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

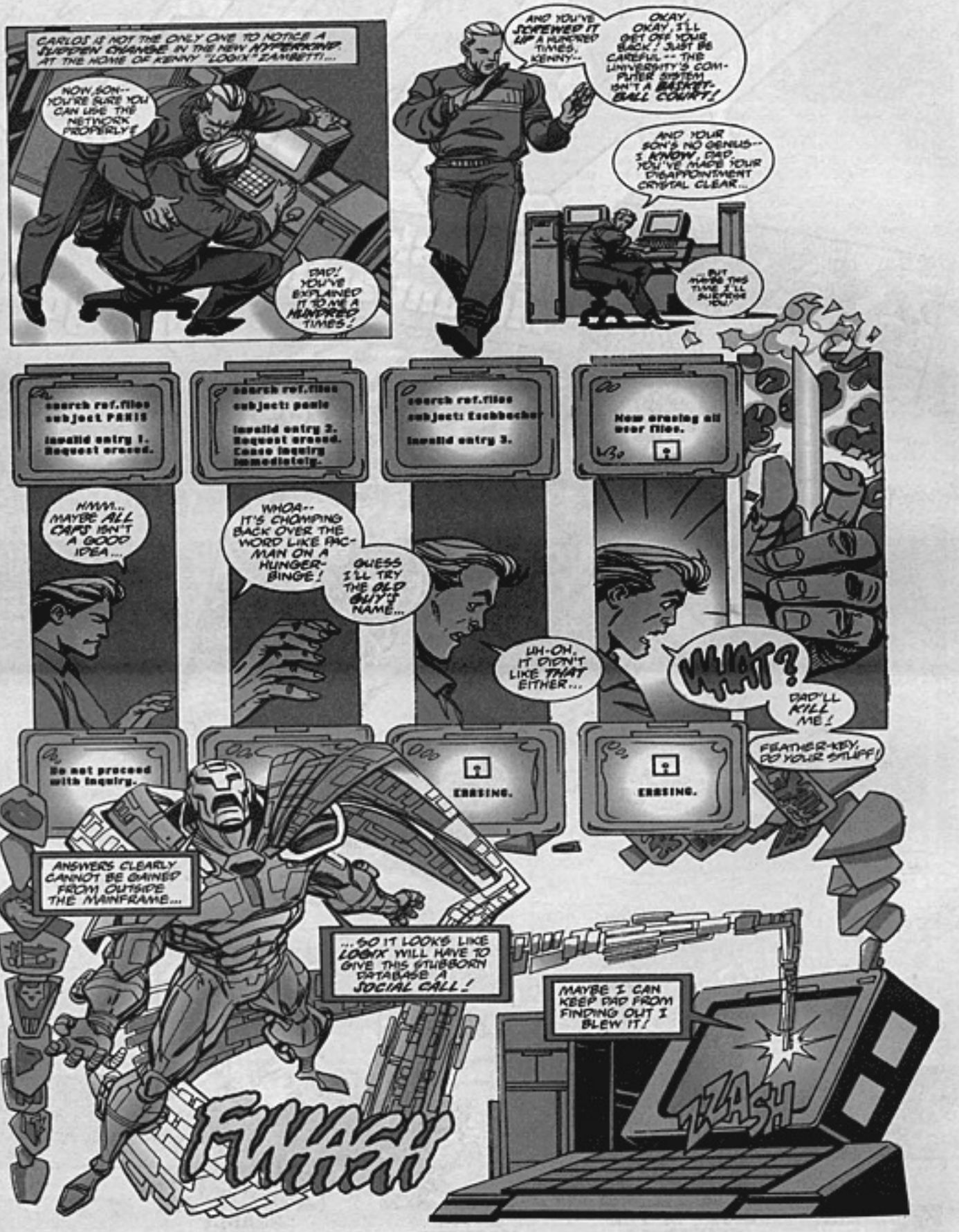
ESCH- BABY'S RIGHT, HONEY... SUPER HEROES ARE JUST A FANTASY... AN UNHEALTHY PRODUCT OF AN UNSTABLE MIND...
...A LITTLE THERAPY WILL FIX YOU UP IN NO TIME!
BLISS-- COULD SHE BE THE CAUSE OF THIS? SHE LOOKS MEAN, MALEVOLENT-- MORE LIKE DYAN DIVINE THAN HER NEW SUPER-SELF...
YOU-- YOU'RE DOING THIS SOMEHOW! YOU'VE GOT THE POWER TO CONTROL DREAMS!
NO, HONEY-- I'VE GOT THE POWER TO CONTROL YOUR BOY-FRIEND!
A pixis, a paxis, I'll tell you what the faxis. if you come with me on the shining path...
NO! STOP THAT, KENNY!
HE'S SO GOOOOD-- AND HE'S ALL MINE!
GOT TO MAKE KENNY THINK LOGICALLY.
HIS KEY WILL TRANSFORM HIM...
...INTO LOGIX!
FWASH
YO, AMOKK! THAT GUY'S HURTIN' MY BIG SISTER!
DON'T WORRY, DANNY-BOY! WE WON'T LET NOTHIN' BAD HAPPEN!
BUT THIS IS NOT THE LOGIX LISA KNOWS-- IT IS HER DEEPEST DREAD... HER EX, KENNY ZAMBETTI, ENGORGED WITH LUST!
GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS-- LET'S GET IT ON, LISA! ALL-LIVE, ALL WILD, ALL THE TIME! YES?
HE'S SUCH A SILLY BEAST! ISN'T LOGIX YUMMY, LISA?
NO! HELP ME!

GEORGE--I MEAN AMOKK! THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE! YOU KNOW THE PAXIS ARE REAL!
D-DANIEL! BUT, WHY--?
YOU WERE RIGHT, OLD FRIEND! MY SIS HAS GONE BONKERS!
SHE'S RAVING ABOUT SUPER HEROES.
AND EVEN I KNOW THEY'RE NOT REAL!
the Shining
NO WAY TO SAVE HER. BETTER JUST TURN HER OFF!
NO, PLEASE, DANIEL-- IT'S THOSE BLOBS... TURNING YOU INTO A ZOMBIE SOMEH--
ZZZZZZZT
UCLA'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH LIBRARY-- THE LAST PLACE LISA THOUGHT SHE'D SPEND HER SUMMER VACATION.
MRS. GRISSOM'S LECTURE ON "RESOURCEFUL USE OF HISTORICAL PERIODICALS" LAST SEMESTER HELPED HER RESEARCH WORLD WAR ONE...
YAAAAAH!
...BUT IT FORGOT TO MENTION HOW EASY IT IS TO FALL ASLEEP SURROUNDED BY THE GENTLE HUSH AND DUSTY PAGES.
MIGS-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'VE BEEN UP FIGHTING A LIZARD-MARAUDER ALL NIGHT LONG.
I TRIED TO FIND SOMETHING ON THE PAXIS THING YOU ASKED ABOUT, BUT IT'S NOT LISTED BY SUBJECT IN THE ORION ON-LINE COMPUTER LISTINGS.
I CRASHED THE DARN SYSTEM LOOKING--ARE YOU CERTAIN THEY'RE NOT IN FICTION...?
YES, I'M CERTAIN... THANK YOU!
THERE MUST BE SOME MENTION OF THE PAXIS WINNING WORLD WAR I! NEED TO KEEP SEARCHING-- THAT'S ALL...

AT THE UNDERGROUND, DYAN DIVINE SEARCHES FOR REVELATIONS A LITTLE LESS ABSTRACT-- BUT NO LESS ENTICING...
NOT EXACTLY THE PERFORMANCE WE WERE EXPECTING THIS MORNING--
I'M SORRY, MADAME MOE, I--
--BUT THEN I GUESS YOUR MEAGER TIPS WERE SUFFICIENT PROOF OF THE AUDIENCE'S BOREDOM...
I'M JUST TIRED, THAT'S ALL. A LITTLE DOWN...
IS THIS THE KIND OF PICK-ME-UP YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
YES! THAT'S WHAT I NEED! HERE, GIMME--
I THINK NOT, DYAN. YOU KNOW THE RULES, GIRL-- YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE CLIENTS SMILE IF YOU WANT CANDY.
SWAK!
BUT I--
PERHAPS TOMORROW YOU'LL SHOW A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE JOB.
Y-YES, MADAME MOE...
...BUT TOMORROW, BLISS WILL DO THE DANCING, YOU OLD BAG!
MARK MY WORDS, ZADOR... ...THAT ONE IS TROUBLE!
A LITTLE TASTE WOULDN'T HURT HER NONE...
...A KIBBLE IN THE BACK ROOM, JUST TO KEEP ME GOIN'...
IT'S NOT FAIR!!
I WASN'T SMOKIN' THAT STUFF WHEN I GOT OFFA THE GREYHOUND!
ZADOR SAID A LITTLE BLAST WOULD MAKE ME FEEL BETTER--AND IT DID... ...FOR A WHILE, BUT MY MIND AND BODY PAID FOR IT! WITH THAT CRACK, I ALMOST FORGOT WHY I LEFT HOME IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BUT NO ONE TOLD ME I'D WIND UP NEEDIN' IT ALL THE TIME!
I WORK FOR FOOD

IF ONLY EVERYONE ON HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD COULD WAKE UP -- BUT THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE. THIS IS REAL LIFE.
NEED... THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT! INSATIABLE NEED...
I NEED THE ROCK... AND THE MEN NEED ME...
...HUNGRY PEOPLE NEED WORK... RICH LADIES NEED MORE CLOTHES...
...AND ALL US KIDS NEED SOME KINDA DIRECTION!
IT'S LIKE A BLACK HOLE, CHOMPING AWAY AT US... LEAVING US ALWAYS HUNGRY FOR MORE...
WHAT THE -- I MUST BE JONESIN' BIG TIME...
...SEEIN' THAT BLACK GOOP SLIMIN' OUTTA PEOPLE-- UGH!
CALM DOWN, GIRL! JUST KEEP MOVIN' UP THE STRIP AND IT'LL GO AWAY...
...FIND YOURSELF A JOHNNY-BOY IN A NICE CAR WHO'LL HELP YOU OUT...
...AND YOU'LL QUIT SEEIN' THINGS...
...IN NO TIME...
I-I DON'T LIKE THIS...
BUT HOW DO I MAKE IT STOP?
NO! G-GET OFFA ME!
OH MIGOD... THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!

MELROSE AVENUE, WHERE THE THIRD NEO-PAXIS IS INDULGING IN HIS FAVORITE ADDICTION...
GOLDEN AGE COMICS
C'MON, GEORGE!
AW, SHUT UP, CARLOS-- I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THE GOLDEN AGE TODAY!
...A NEED THAT'S ABOUT TO PROVE HIGHLY INFORMATIVE!
...$675? THAT'S CRAZY! AND IF I RIP IT OFF, MY FAVE STORE'S OFF LIMITS!
DEACON GIVES US THE PACKAGE, WE WALTZ INTA EDEN HOUSE, MAKE THE TRADE-- PIECE A' CAKE!
I DON'T KNOW, MAN. PETTY STUFF IS ONE THING-- BUT YOU'RE TALKIN' DOPE HERE...
...I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THAT SCENE! IT MAKES ME THINK OF MY LITTLE BROTHERS... LITTLE SISTERS...
YEAH, THAT MARIA'S GONNA GROW UP INTO ONE FINE CREATURE... BUT HEY-- YOUR LOSS MAN! LET'S CHECK OUT THE METH BOOKS!
A PAXIS COMIC-- WHADDAYA KNOW? AND ONLY...
CARLOS, I JUST MAY NEED A LITTLE INFLUX O' CAPITAL, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
INDEED I DO, BUDDY.. LOOKS LIKE I GOT A PARTNER!
SO WHAT'S WITH THE HELIOPOLIS CINEMA, CARLOS? YOU KNOW THE BOULEVARD BETTER'N ANYBODY-- WHY AIN'T THERE NO SQUATTERS THERE?
HEY IT'S THE PHARAOHS' SHRINE, MAN! I'D BURN A CANDLE AT THE HELIOPOLIS SOONER THAN I'D SAY THE AVE MARIA!
CARLOS! LOOK OUT!
BESIDES-- THEY SAY NOBODY WHO'S EVER BUSTED INTA MELIO HAS COME OUT AGAIN-- KNOW WHAT I MEAN? SPOOKY IF YA--
SPIT, GEORGE! GOOD SAVE!
BUT WHERE'D YA SUDDENLY GET THE CAJONES TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT?
FWUMP
SCREEEE
INSTINCT, MAN-- JUST INSTINCT...


CARLOS IS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO NOTICE A SUSPICIN CHANGE IN THE NEW ATTENDING AT THE HOME OF KENNY "LOOIX" ZAMBETTI...
HOW SON-- YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN USE THE NETWORK PROPERLY?
DAD! YOU'VE EXPLAINED IT TO ME A HUNDRED TIMES!
AND YOU'VE SCREWED IT UP A HUNDRED TIMES, KENNY--
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL GET OFF YOUR BACK! JUST BE CAREFUL -- THE UNIVERSITY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM ISN'T A BASKETBALL COURT!
AND YOUR SON'S NO GENIUS-- I KNOW, DAD, YOU'VE MADE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT CRYSTAL CLEAR...
...BUT MARK THIS TIME I'LL SURPRISE YOU!
search ref.files subject PARIS
invalid entry 1. Request erased.
search ref.files subject: penis
invalid entry 2. Request erased. Cease inquiry immediately.
search ref.files subject: Esobbacher
invalid entry 3.
Now erasing all user files.
HMMM... MAYBE ALL CAPS ISN'T A GOOD IDEA...
WHOA-- IT'S CHOMPING BACK OVER THE WORD LIKE PAC-MAN ON A HUNGER-BINGE!
GUESS I'LL TRY THE OLD GUY'S NAME...
UH-OH, IT DIDN'T LIKE THAT EITHER...
WHAT?
DAD'LL KILL ME!
FEATHER-KEY, DO YOUR STUFF!
Do not proceed with inquiry.
ERASING.
ERASING.
ANSWERS CLEARLY CANNOT BE GAINED FROM OUTSIDE THE MAINFRAME...
...SO IT LOOKS LIKE LOOIX WILL HAVE TO GIVE THIS STUBBORN DATABASE A SOCIAL CALL!
MAYBE I CAN KEEP DAD FROM FINDING OUT I BLEW IT!
FWASH!
TKASH

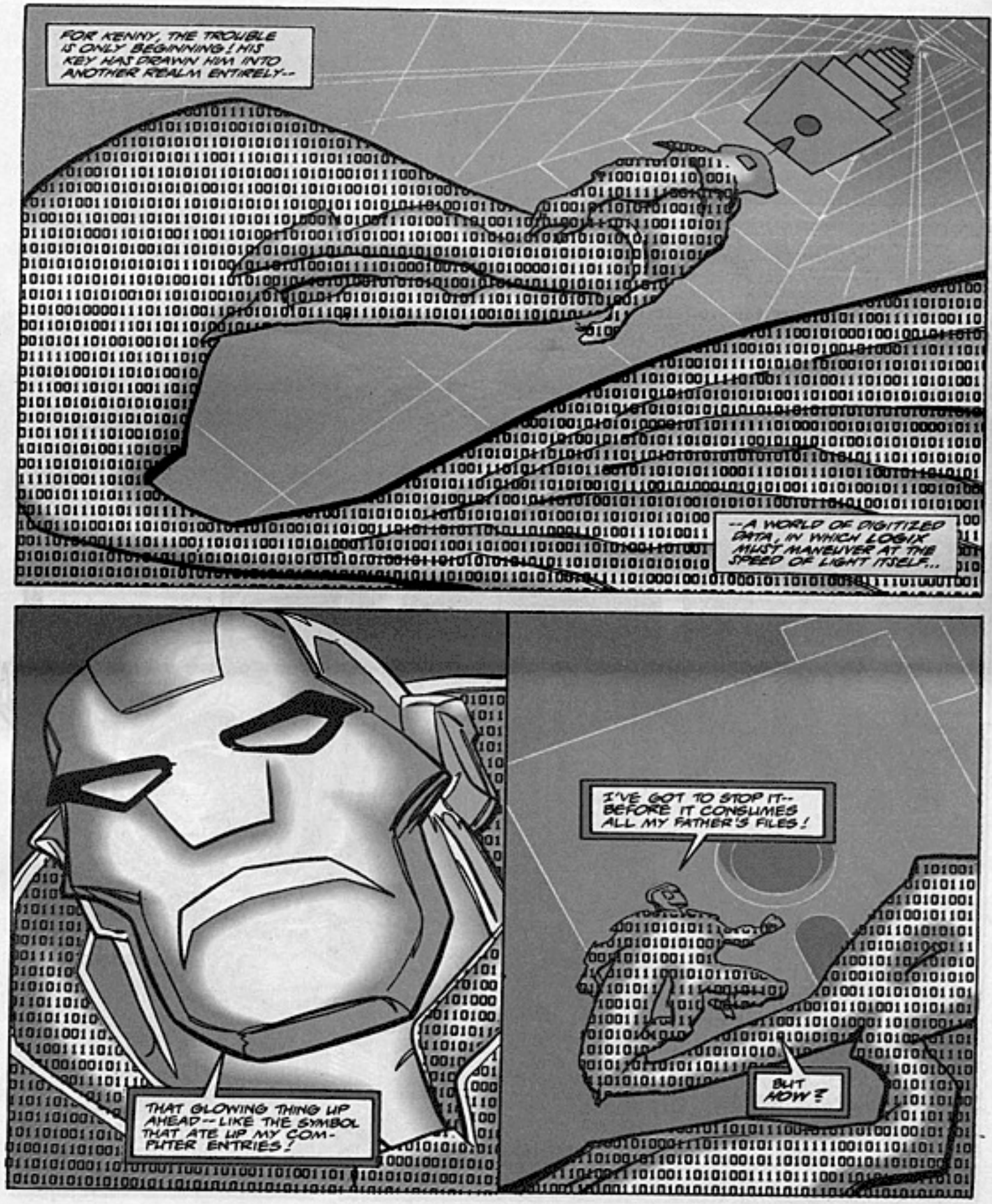
THE MORGUE OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OPERATING THE MICROFILM READER PROPERLY?
I CAN OPERATE ANYTHING THESE DAYS... THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM!
IT'S JUST THAT PAGES SEEM TO BE MISSING--IN EVERY NEWSPAPER I'D EXPECT TO FIND THE PAXIS MENTIONED!
WELL, MISSY... YOU ARE LOOKING AT AWFULLY OLD RECORDS... THOSE WERE THE WAR YEARS... THERE WERE A LOT OF PAPER DRIVES...
AND UNEXPLAINED FIRES DESTROYED EVERY COPY OF CERTAIN EDITIONS. I KNOW, THANKS -- IT ALL MAKES SENSE TO ME NOW...
SENSE MY BUTT! WELL, DADDY--THE NEWS ARCHIVES ARE USELESS. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE.
WE'RE HERE AT PARAGON PICTURES CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, THE SCENE LAST NIGHT OF AN ALLEGED SUPER HERO BATTLE...
MR. DOORE HAS NO COMMENT ON THE DESTRUCTION OR HIS PERPETRATORS AT THIS TIME. THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY...
HI, MAX--I'M JUST GOING UP TO SEE DADDY...
UPSTAIRS...
SCHOOL'S STILL A WEEK OFF, LISA, BUT I ADMIRE YOU WORKING AHEAD!
WELL... YOU KNOW ME, DADDY...
GIVE THE OLD PARAGON PICTURES NEWSREELS A TRY.
THE ARCHIVES AT THE PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST AREN'T OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BUT I THINK WE CAN SWING IT...
THANKS, DADDY!
AH, THE SMOG GODS ARE SMILING ON ME TODAY! NO INVERSION LAYER-- PERFECT TOP-DOWN WEATHER!
AND MAYBE DADDY'S GIVEN ME THE CLUE I NEED TO SOLVE THIS PAXIS PUZZLE--
VRRRRRMMMMMMMMMM

"--AND GET THAT TRAMP, DYAN, OUT OF MY LIFE FOR GOOD!"
GET DOWN!--
FWASH
STAY BACK! THESE BLOBS MAY BE DANGEROUS!
HEY LADY--WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
OH, GREAT! I GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE SUCKERS...
...BUT, THANKFULLY, THEY'VE ENGORGED THEMSELVES TO DEATH ON MY POWER-FLASH!
AS BLISS, I FEEL A LOT MORE STABLE...
...I KNOW I'M NOT HALLUC!-NATING--
--CAUSE I'M THE MASTER OF MEN'S MINDS! OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, ANYHOW.
BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THESE BLOB-THINGS FROM CAMPING OUT ON HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD!
C'MON, JOANNA! YOU'RE WORTH WAY MORE TO ME THAN A MILLION BUCKS!
YOU WOULDN'T LET ME TAKE ON EVEN ONE INDECENT PROPOSAL?
HA! NOT EVEN ONE! I NEED YOU--AND NOBODY ELSE WILL DO!
MMMMM
HOH.

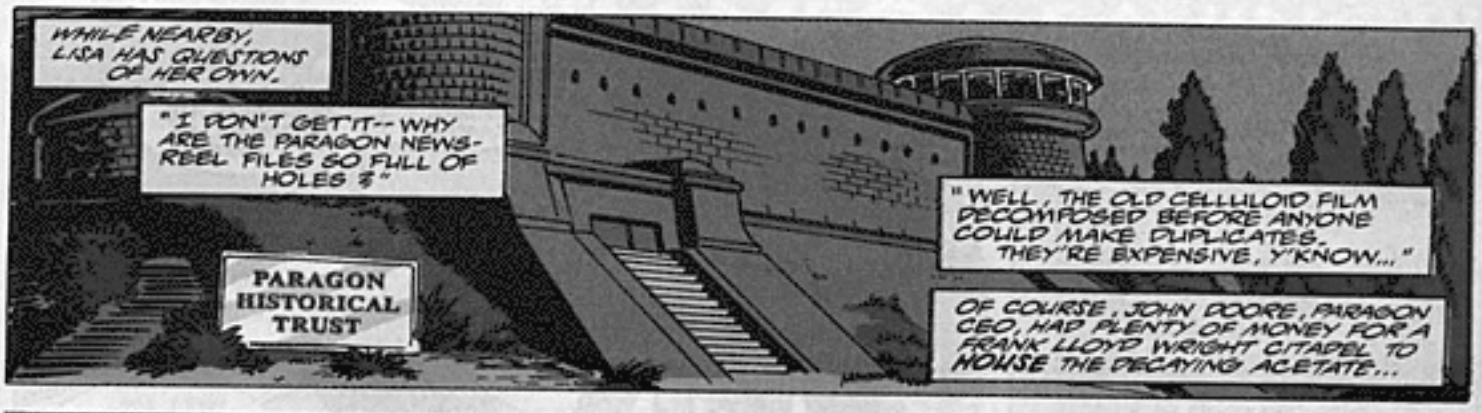
THEY SEEM LIKE SUCH NICE KIDS...
...BUT THOSE SLIME-BALLS ABOVE THEM-- FEEDING OFF EACH OTHER... GROSS
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?
BLISS OPENS THEIR MINDS... FALLING DEEPLY INTO THEIR DREAMS...
...LOOKING FOR SOME SIGN OF HIDDEN DEPRAVITY.
THERE IS NONE.
HARD-WORKING... HARD-LOVING...
...THEIR HAPPINESS IS SOMEHOW DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER...
...JUST THE WAY TRUE LOVE IS SUPPOSED TO BE.
THE THINGS SEEM INVISIBLE...
...BUT I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!
BLISS FIRES A WAVE OF PURE DREAM-STUFF AT THE FRENZIED BLOBS...
...GIVING FORM AND SUBSTANCE TO THEIR THROBBING PULSATIONS!
NOW JOE AND JOANNA CANNOT HELP BUT SEE THE LIVING SHADOWS OF THEIR PASSION...
WHAT THE--?
...SHADOWS THAT SEND THEM SCURRYING IN HORROR...
RUN!
...AND BLISS IN HOT PURSUIT!

EDEN HOUSE, WHERE GEORGE AND CARLOS HAVE COME BEARING GIFTS...
DEACON CAME THROUGH. THAT STUFF IS UNBLEMISHED...
...MAMA COCA WILL MAKE US SOME HIGH-GRADE ROCK OFFA THAT!
GLAD YOU APPROVE. WE'LL JUST COUNT OUR BILLS AND BE OUTTA HERE!..
STAY FOR A WHILE-- HAVE A LINE ON THE HOUSE...
NO THANKS.
KRACK
CARLOS!
GOT TO LOSE MY PREY--NEED A DIVERSION...
GRAB THE MONEY!
AARRGHH! THAT LIGHT-- BLINDIN' ME...!
THE STUFF! KID KNOCKED OVER THE STUFF!
KRASH
FWAP
AS THEIR VISION RETURNS, THE CRACK LORDS PEER THROUGH A WHITE DUST CLOUD WORTH THOUSANDS...
YOU LOSERS JUST SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANT!
...FACING A SNARLING BEAST BENT ONLY ON BLOODSHED!
AMOKK!

AARGH!
SKRASH
SKTH
SLAMASH
I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'! I'LL BE GOOD... I PROMISE...
.....
FWASH
DID THE MONSTER HURT YOUR FRIEND?
I HOPE NOT, KID... I HOPE NOT...
DAG--THIS KEY'S NOTHIN' BUT TROUBLE! AND NOW IT'S GLOWING OFF AND ON--LIKE SOME KIND OF INTER-GALACTIC PAGER!
TROUBLE WITH THE OTHERS...?
PING


FOR KENNY, THE TROUBLE IS ONLY BEGINNING! HIS KEY HAS DRAWN HIM INTO ANOTHER REALM ENTIRELY--
--A WORLD OF DIGITIZED DATA, IN WHICH LOGIX MUST MANEUVER AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT ITSELF...
THAT GLOWING THING UP AHEAD--LIKE THE SYMBOL THAT ATE UP MY COMPUTER ENTRIES!
I'VE GOT TO STOP IT--BEFORE IT CONSUMES ALL MY FATHER'S FILES!
BUT HOW?

FASTER AND FASTER...
...WITH A FURY BORN OF INTIMATE FRUSTRATION...
...LOGIX ATTACKS THE COMPUTER VIRUS, PUNCHING THROUGH IT TO THE SOURCE!
I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST-- BEFORE ANY-ONE SPOTS ME!
BETTER POWER DOWN!..MIGHT BE EASIER TO EXPLAIN! A NOSY KID AROUND HERE THAN A SUPER-HERO!
WAAP
SKRAKLE
BUT WHERE AM I?
AND WHY DO THESE COMPUTERS WANT TO DESTROY ANY REFERENCE TO THE PAXIS?


WHILE NEARBY, LISA HAS QUESTIONS OF HER OWN.
"I DON'T GET IT-- WHY ARE THE PARAGON NEWSREEL FILES SO FULL OF HOLES?"
PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST
"WELL, THE OLD CELLULOID FILM DECOMPOSED BEFORE ANYONE COULD MAKE DUPLICATES. THEY'RE EXPENSIVE, Y'KNOW..."
OF COURSE, JOHN DOORE, PARAGON CEO, HAD PLENTY OF MONEY FOR A FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT CITADEL TO HOUSE THE DECAYING ACETATE...

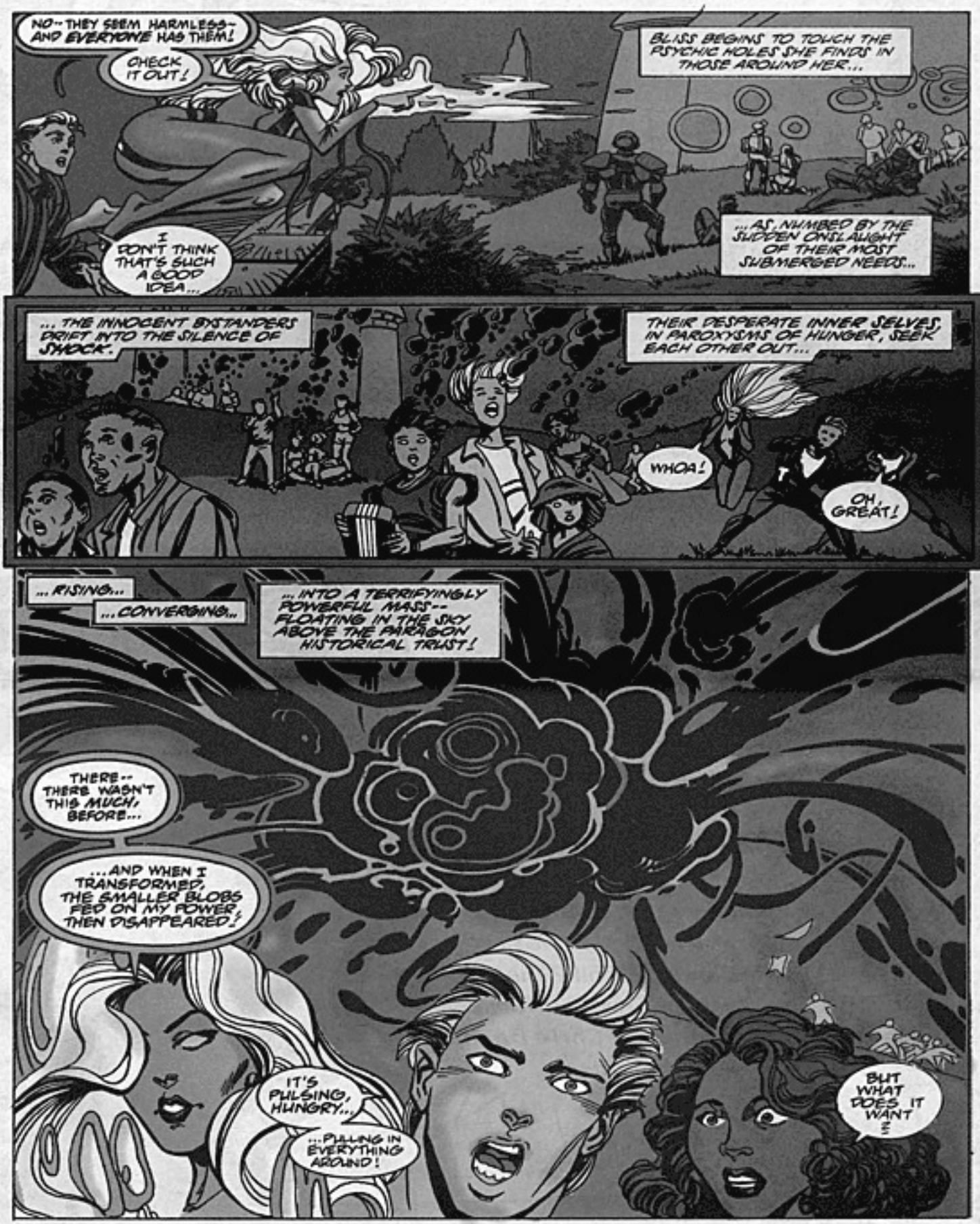
BY THE WAY, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU, MISS MOFFITT--
--BUT I FOUND SOMETHING THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU. I HOPE IT WILL MAKE AMENDS FOR MY RUDENESS...
I HOPE SO, TOO. SO WHAT HAVE WE GOT, MR. KRAMER?
A MOVIE SERIAL CALLED PAXIS-- IT'S FROM THE LATE FORTIES, AND IT MADE QUITE A BIT OF MONEY FOR THE STUDIO...

PAXIS
FIGHTING AMERICAN
PUBLIC SERIAL
MY GOD-- IT'S THEM! IT'S REALLY THEM!
HER SKIN TINGLES... THE ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE KEYHOLE IN HER FLESH ITCHING WITH RECOGNITION.

WELL-- NO, MA'AM. IT'S NOT THEM. IT'S ACTORS-- STUNTMEN.
SOME PEOPLE REMEMBER THE OLD MOVIES SO VIVIDLY THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY WERE TRUE...

... BUT, SADLY THERE NEVER WERE ANY SUPER HEROES.
PITY. THEY'D MAKE THE WORLD MORE INTERESTING...
KENNY?
LIGA! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
KENNY--UH, UM... SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. THIS IS MY NEW FRIEND... SAMUEL KRAMER.
HE'S BEEN SHOWING ME MOVIES... IN THE DARK.
WELL, UH... GEE. THAT'S NICE. UM, COULD WE GET OUT OF HERE, MAYBE?
THANKS, SAM... FOR EVERY-THING.
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WITH THOSE TWO...
...JUST SQUABBLING TEENAGERS AND THEIR HORMONES.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET IN HERE? FOLLOWING ME...?
STILL, I'VE GOT TO REPORT THIS.
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT--WE'VE GOT TO TALK!
"... TO PARAGON JOHN."
KRAMER REPORTING, SIR. IT WAS JUST MOFFITT'S DAUGHTER, CHECKING OUT A RUMOR. THESE THINGS HAPPEN.
WELL, IF WE DON'T STOP THE NEW PAXIS-- AND SOON-- SUCH RUMORS WILL BE HAPPENING ALL OVER.
I'M GOING TO ISSUE THEM A CHALLENGE, KRAMER-- SEE IF WE CAN SIMPLY STOP THEM WITH SUPERIOR FIREPOWER!
IN THE MEANTIME, THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER HYPERKIND PRESENCE-- THIS ONE IN NEW YORK CITY.* ANY SUGGESTIONS?
WRATH IS THE BEST MERC OUT THERE, SIR. I'LL GET HER ON IT.
EXCELLENT.
* SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF HOKUM & HEX: MARC.

WHILE KRAMER AND PARAGON JOHN COMPARE NOTES, KENNY AND LISA DO THE SAME.
PARAGON
SO THE COMPUTER VIRUS THAT WIPES OUT REFRENCES TO PAXIS IS HERE--AND THEY CLAIM IT WAS ALL A MOVIE!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, KENNY...MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT. ESCHBACHER COULD'VE TRICKED US ALL...
IT'S A LITTLE CREEPY--BUT WE CAN HANDLE IT.
WE JUST NEED TO STICK TOGETHER--REMIND OURSELVES THAT WHAT HAPPENED, REALLY HAPPENED!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THE POWERS ARE CHANGING US EVEN WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE KEYS IN?
YEAH... I DO SEEM TO BE DIFFERENT, SORT OF...
HELP ME, YOU GUYS! THESE AMOEBA-THINGS--THEY'RE SUCKING UP EVERYBODY'S SOULS!
WHA--?! DY--I MEAN, BLISS! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
"SOUL-SUCKERS"? GIVE ME A BREAK! SHE'S OFF HER NUT, KENNY--CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
NOT SO FAST, LISA--WE'VE EACH BEEN DRAWN HERE, SOMEHOW!
LOOK, I'LL PROVE IT! YOU CAN'T SEE THE BLOB-THING NOW...
...BUT WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PUMP IT FULLA JUICE!
THEY ALL HEAD HERE--LIKE THIS BUILDING IS THEIR HOME!
PARAGON
YOK--IT'S DIS-GUSTING!
AND IT MAY BE DANGEROUS!


NO--THEY SEEM HARMLESS--AND EVERYONE HAS THEM!
CHECK IT OUT!
I DON'T THINK THAT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA...
BLISS BEGINS TO TOUCH THE PSYCHIC HOLES SHE FINDS IN THOSE AROUND HER...
...AS, NUMBED BY THE SUDDEN ONSLAUGHT OF THEIR MOST SUBMERGED NEEDS...
...THE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS DRIFT INTO THE SILENCE OF SHOCK.
THEIR DESPERATE INNER SELVES, IN PAROXYSMS OF HUNGER, SEEK EACH OTHER OUT...
WHOA!
OH, GREAT!
...RISING...
...CONVERGING...
...INTO A TERRIFYINGLY POWERFUL MASS--FLOATING IN THE SKY ABOVE THE PARAGON HISTORICAL TRUST!
THERE--THERE WASN'T THIS MUCH, BEFORE...
...AND WHEN I TRANSFORMED, THE SMALLER BLOBS FED ON MY POWER THEN DISAPPEARED!
IT'S PULSING, HUNGRY...
...PULLING IN EVERYTHING AROUND!
BUT WHAT DOES IT WANT?

A PARA-CORPS TROOPER--A NOT-SO INNOCENT BYSTANDER--IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER ITS ALL-ENCOMPASSING NEED...
YAAH! IT'S GOT ME...!
...SUCKED INTO THE MAELSTROM THAT HAS NO NAME!
HELP ME...
HE WON'T BE COMING BACK TO REVEAL WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE...
...CONSUMED--AND DIGESTED--BY THE RAWEST OF HUNGERS!
LOOKS LIKE MY L'IL SERPENT-KEY WAS RIGHT--SOMETHIN' IS UP!
SCREE
...PLEASE HELP ME...
GEORGE!
I USED MY KEY TO TRACK YOU! THE CLOSER I GOT, THE FASTER IT FLASHED...
WE'D BETTER GET INTO ACTION WHILE THESE PEOPLE ARE TOO BEFUDDLED TO SEE US...
OH, GEORGE--THAT'S JUST YOUR COMIC BOOKS TALKING! I'M NOT GONNA GO LOOKING FOR A PHONE BOOTH EVERY TIME THERE'S TROUBLE!
THREE KEYS...
...THREE POWERS...
...THREE HEROES TO JOIN BLISS!
LET'S DO IT, HYPERKIND!

CHECK IT OUT! THE RESIDUAL POWER FROM OUR TRANS-FORMATION--
-- IS SOMEHOW MELTING THEM!
BUT THE DARK BLOB IN THE SKY-- SO HUGE IT BLOTS OUT THE SUN-- SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING.
YOU SEE--IT'S A GAP--SOME KIND OF WOUND IN PEOPLE'S HEADS.
YOU'RE RIGHT! MY LASERSCANS READ IT LIKE A MINIATURE BLACK HOLE IN THE FABRIC OF THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS.
GEE, LOGIX--LOOKS LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH THAT DATABASE GAVE YOU A PAD!
WELL I'M GETTIN' NOWHERE! FIGHTIN' A HOLE'S A WASTE OF TIME!
AND IT MAY BE DOING US MORE HARM THAN GOOD!
MY SCANS SHOW IT MUTATING!
IT'S ALL NEED! IT'S INSATIABLE-- AND SOMEHOW WE'RE AGGRAVATING IT!

WAAH!!
IT'S TAKING ON FORM! MONSTROUS FETAL FORM!
SOMETHING MUST BE FEEDING IT... GIVING IT THE ENERGY TO...
...IT'S US! IT WANTS HYPERKIND ENERGY!
IT'S SUCKING ME IN!
THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO STARVE IT!
WE MUST STOP USING OUR POWERS!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
DOES HE EVER KID?
WAAAAH!!
IT'S LIKE A BABY-- SOMEHOW YOU WOKE IT UP! NOW YOU NEED TO HUSH IT AGAIN.
STOP FIGHTING AND CALM IT! A LULLABYE! MAYBE IF WE SING TO IT...
♪ A PIXIS A PAXIS... I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE FAXIS ♪
WAIT-- THAT'S A CHILDREN'S RHYME-- I KNOW IT!
♪ ...IF YOU COME TO ME ON THE SHINING PATH... ♪
GWA?!
IT'S WORKING! THE THINGS CALMING! SHRINKING...

WEIRD SONG, BLISS-- BUT ROSEMARY'S BABY HERE LIKES IT!
SWA
THAT'S A GOOD FETUS...
BABY'S GON' BYE-BYE!
BUP BUP BLOOP
LATER...
YOU KNOW, THOSE BLOBS--THAT MONSTROUS HUNGER--IT'S PROBABLY THE PSYCHIC HOLE CREATED BY THE MISSING HISTORY OF PAXIS...
...AND SOMEHOW THIS BUILDING IS AT THE ROOT OF THAT PROBLEM.
BUT WHY WOULD ANYONE GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE--CHANGING HISTORY, I MEAN? AND HOW?
THERE'S A SCARIER QUESTION, GEORGE... IF THEY'VE WORKED THIS HARD TO ERASE THE HISTORY OF THE PAXIS--
--WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO TO US?
PHEW! IT'S GONE!
I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW WE'RE GETTING HOME. I'M POWERED OUT, YOU KNOW?
THANKS, GUYS!
AND THE MIATA'S A TWO-SEATER. CAN YOU GIVE DYAN A LIFT, GEORGE?
WELL, I'D LOVE TO, BUT...
...I THINK SOMEBODY'S NOTICED THAT I BORROWED MY WHEELS!
THANKS NOTHING-- YOUR HOT STUNT THERE PROBABLY BLEW OUR COVER COMPLETELY!
ESCHBACHER WARNED US THAT THESE POWERS HAD TO BE PROTECTED! YOU'VE GOT THE SUBTLETY OF A... OF A...
--OH, I'M NOT EVEN GONNA SAY IT...
LAUGH NOW, CHILDREN--
--BUT SOON THESE GAMES YOU PLAY WILL TURN DEADLY SERIOUS!
AND HOW THEY'RE PLAYED WILL DECIDE IF YOU LIVE AS CHILDREN...
OR DIE AS HEROES!
NEXT: THE POWER OF...
PARAGON JOHN

HYPERKIND

RAZORLINE

Clive B... Marcus McLaur...

Why super heroes? Isn't the comics industry already gorged with these caped and airborne testosterone cases?

[The comics industry] does have a huge number of heroes who have the problem of lots of flash on the surface and very little content. The old line of there being only so few stories to tell, you know, maybe there are more than that, but maybe there aren't a lot more. The issue isn't what stories you're telling, the issue is what those stories are doing to the imagination of the readers, and what the writers-and in this case, obviously, the artists-bring to this particular interpretation.

My belief is that super heroes are like the Faust myth, or like goblins and fairy tales, or, you know, suicidal matrons in French novels. Characters which can be infinitely re-interpreted. The issue is; is there something that you can, as the creator, uniquely bring to suicidal matrons, or the goblins, or, in this case, super heroes? What we've tried to do with these titles and what we're going to be trying to do in these titles to come is find a particular cutting-edge take on the character.

In the case of HYPERKIND, Fred Burke has crafted a series of characters who are very Nineties, who are very far from the world of Reed Richards. They're street kids in contemporary Los Angeles who have been shaped and bruised by abuse and drugs, and who are now given-quite accidentally-the powers of minor divinities. This issue is what we do with those things. How does a kid who has really known only abuse through his or her life-without a role model, as Aunt May was to Peter Parker- how does that kid deal with powers which are actually greater than those offered by the average radioactive spider?

These are characters who are dealing with, shall we say, a *change* in their lives. They're going to have to find, within themselves, the values that alter the way they look at that world and themselves, or else implode. That's very different from The Fantastic Four, or, indeed, The X-Men, with Professor Xavier on hand as somebody to offer a kind of moral viewpoint to these kids. I think it's a more modern take on these "heroes."

— excerpted from
The Austin Chro...
July 23, 19...

the big sell-out

Do me a favor. Call or, better yet, visit your local comic shop. You know the one — your favorite, the one you probably just picked this comic up at. Go there and ask them how many copies of HYPERKIND #1 they still have on sale.

Don't mind me, I'll be here waiting for you to come back.

But, just in case you're among the the-suspense-is-killing-me crowd, or even the get-to-the-bloody-point-already clique who just left the shop and aren't anxious to go back without another full pocket of change, I'll tell you why. The book is history.

From the reports I've heard from extremely reliable sources across the country and points across the ocean, the demand for the first issue of this title has far outweighed the ordered supply.

We, meaning a crew of direct sales staff, myself, and Clive Barker at the helm spent months around the country telling people what the RAZORLINE was going to be, what it was about, how it was going to do, and how excited everyone was going to be about it. Some believed us, but unfortunately, in this summer of a thousand universes, most were jaded and had heard the promise before. The result was that the first issue was drastically under-ordered on each of the four RAZORLINE titles. This was true to such a degree that, when the books came out and you readers found the promise was fulfilled, the books flew off the shelves. In many cases, at this writing, HYPERKIND #1 was gone in the first two days. ECTOKID #1 was history after four. And so on. And so on.

the game

But don't take my word for it. I invite you to partake in a little experiment, that I've tried several times in the past few weekends, in between baseball and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION reruns.

Walk into a comic store and ask for HYPERKIND #1. Watch the sales clerks puzzled expression. Then ask again, explaining you're after the premiere title in Marvel's RAZORLINE imprint, Super heroes from the mind of Clive Barker. Watch the look of recognition, giving way to puzzlement. Do they have it?

One store owner was certain he knew that he had a copy around somewhere. He must — he always orders healthily on first issues of new titles. And after all, the first issues from several of the other new universes are still proudly on display, yelling out "buy me, please...*please*." It's gotta be there somewhere.

Then wait. And wait. This is the hard part.

When the realization sinks in, ask him if he can remember exactly when he sold out. This is the pay-off. This'll tell you a lot.

Hey, what can I tell you? Summer is slow in Brooklyn, and the Mets are still off their game.

you may have already won

So, if you are among the privileged few who bought the book on the day it came out or close thereafter (I hear in more than a dozen stores, the title sold out in two days!) pat yourself on the back for your luck and/or skill.

If you're among the brilliant few who tried to order the book, but found your dealer drastically under-ordered, stick with us as we fill you in on everything you missed. We want you along for the ride.

And, if you're among the significant some who just jumped on, welcome.

Now do me a favor, all of you; next time you're in your local comic shop, remind them to order more of next issue. We're hot, and we don't care who knows it...

Next in HYPERKIND #4:
The hyperkind are at the mercy of Paragon John, the most dangerous man in the Barkerverse! Be here as we uncover the secret behind the Age Without Heroes, in "Raging Paragon!"

Next week in ECTOKID #3:
Dex takes his first furtive steps into the Ectosphere--into the heart of a demonic maelstrom! With heroes the like of Cyrano DeBergerac and Edgar Allan Poe at his side, Dex's first Ectospherian adventure might still be his last!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HOKUM & HEX #3:
Meet Wrath–a beautiful and deadly bounty hunter hired to find out the truth behind Trip's "magic!" She's determined to make him her ultimate trophy–dead or alive!

SAINT SINNER #3:
At last, the demon and the angel at war within the soul of Phillip Fetter have all their secrets revealed! But every truth has its price, as the demon is on the verge of screaming free–and killing Saint Sinner in the process!